

REMARKS

This is a Response to the Office Action mailed March 25, 2004, in which a three (3) month Shortened Statutory Period for Response has been set, due to expire June 25, 2004. Fifty-six (56) claims, including sixteen (16) independent claims, were paid for in the application. In a previous Response to Restriction Requirement and Preliminary Amendment, claims 50-56 were cancelled and claims 38-40 were removed from consideration. In the present amendment, claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 12-16, 18-19, 23-24, 27, 29-32, 35-37, 41, and 43-45 have been amended. Claim 57 has been added. No new matter has been added to the application. The present claim set, as amended herein, stands at forty-six (46) total claims, including thirteen (13) independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter Relative to the Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner notes that claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and, in addition, if rewritten to overcome the claim and Section 112 objections set forth in the Office Action. Applicants have reviewed the Examiner's suggestion and has redrafted claim 27 in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Consequently, Applicants submit that claim 27, as amended, is now allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-26, 28-37, and 41-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lamle (U.S. Patent No. 5,199,710). Claim 27 has been addressed above.

Each of the independent claims recites the limitation of "generating a pseudo-random playing card sequence" or some close variant thereof. Applicants submit that this limitation, among others, distinguishes the respective claims over Lamle.

Lamle specifically teaches and pointedly suggests that the object of the invention is to "avoid the requirement of keeping stocks of unused playing cards," thus the playing cards are printed successively, "*only at the time of delivery* of the card to the table" (column 1, lines 47-48, and lines 57-59; emphasis added). In addition, Lamle teaches that "*after* all bets have

been placed,” *the dealer* must activate “*a suitable switch* to initiate the random number generation and to actuate the ... printer” (column 3, lines 32-35; emphasis added). In the Abstract, Lamle clearly directs that the disclosure applies “while the game is in progress,” such that signals are fed to a card stock printer at the playing area and single, printed playing cards are delivered immediately, successively, and “one-by-one into play.” Moreover, Lamle teaches toward “*successively generating signals* representing indicia designating respective card values randomly drawn from the series of stored card values and feeding the signals successively to the printing means” (column 4, claim 5). In short, Lamle specifically teaches away from printing cards based on any type of a “sequence.” The definition of a sequence, as shown in the attachment hereto, is “three or more playing cards in a consecutive order.” Webster’s II New College Dictionary (1995).

In contrast to generating a pseudo-random sequence, Lamle specifically teaches that a random number generator is generated, a card is printed, and then the entire process is repeated. Accordingly, Lamle teaches solely toward generating individual, random numbers. Therefore, Lamle teaches away from the claims of Applicants’ invention and should not be relied on to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Applicants submit that all the pending claims are patentable over Lamle.

Claim Objections and Section 112 Objections

The cited claim objections and Section 112 objections identified by the Examiner have been addressed with the amendments to the claims. If the Examiner notes any informality or discrepancy with regard to any of the cited objections, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Vershave by telephone to expediently correct such informalities.

Conclusion

Overall, the cited reference either teaches away from Applicants’ invention or does not teach or suggest the claimed features in Applicants’ invention, thus each of the pending independent claims is allowable. Newly added claim 57, which depends on dependent claim 11

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is also allowable. The remaining claims, which depend from allowable independent claims and contain additional features, are also allowable.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



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RCV:jjf

Enclosure:

Dictionary definition of "sequence"
Postcard

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septum pellucidum • seriema

saepire, to enclose < *saepes*, fence.] A thin partition or membrane between two cavities or soft masses of tissue.

septum pel-lu-ci-dum (pə-lōō'pē-lu-ci-dəm) *n.* [NLat., transparent partition.] Anat. A thin membrane of nervous tissue forming the medial wall of the lateral ventricles in the brain.

sep-tu-ple (sēp-tōō'pəl, -tyōō'pəl) *adj.* [LLat. *septuplus*, sevenfold < Lat. *septem*, seven.] 1. Made up of or containing seven. 2. Multiplied by seven. — *vt.* -pled, -pling, -ples. To multiply by seven.

sep-ul-cher (sēp'ul-kər) *n.* [ME *sepulchre* < OFr. < Lat. *sepulcrum* < *sepultus*, p.p. of *sepelire*, to bury.] 1. A burial vault. 2. A container for sacred relics, esp. in an altar. — *vt.* -chered, -cher-ing, -chers. To put in a sepulcher: INTER.

se-pul-chral (sə-pul'krəl, -pōōl'krəl) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to a sepulcher. 2. Suggestive of the grave: FUNERAL. — *se-pul'chral-ly* *adv.*

sep-ul-chre (sēp'ul-kər) *n.* *cf.* Chiefly Brit. var. of *SEPULCHER*.

sep-ul-ture (sēp'ul-choōr', -chər) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *sepultura* < *sepultus*, p.p. of *sepelire*, to bury.] Archaic. 1. Interment: burial. 2. A sepulcher.

se-qua-cious (sē-kwā'shəs) *adj.* [Lat. *sequax*, *sequac*, pursuing < *sequi*, to follow.] 1. Following logically and sequentially. 2. Archaic. Apt to follow another: DEPENDENT. — *se-qua'cious-ly* *adv.* — *se-qua'cious-ly* *adv.*

se-quel (sē'kwəl, -kwēl') *n.* [ME *sequele* < OFr. *sequelle* < Lat. *sequela* < *sequi*, to follow.] 1. Something that follows or comes after. 2. A book, motion picture, or dramatic presentation that continues the narrative of an earlier work. 3. A consequence or result.

se-quel-a (sē'kwēl'ə) *n., pl. -quel-ae* (-kwēl'ē) [Lat., sequel.] Something that follows, esp. a condition arising from a disease.

se-quence (sē'kwāns, -kwēns') *n.* [LLat. *sequentia* < Lat. *sequens*, p.p. of *sequi*, to follow.] 1. A following of one thing after another: SUCCESSION. 2. An order of succession: ARRANGEMENT. 3. A related or continuous series. 4. Three or more playing cards in consecutive order. 5. A series of single film shots edited so as to constitute a unit: EPISODE. 6. Mus. A melodic or harmonic pattern successively repeated at different pitches with or without a key change. 7. Rom. Cath. Ch. A hymn read between the gradual and the gospel. 8. Math. An ordered set of quantities, as $x_1, 2x_1, 3x_1, 4x_1, \dots$. — *vt.* -quenced, -quencing, -quenc-es. To arrange in a sequence.

se-quence-er (sē'kwāns-ər, -kwēns'ər) *n.* Computer Sci. A device that sorts cards, data, or programs in a prearranged sequence.

se-quent (sē'kwānt) *adj.* [Lat. *sequens*, *sequent*, p.p. of *sequi*, to follow.] 1. Coming after in order or time: SUBSEQUENT. 2. Resulting from: CONSEQUENT. — *n.* A result: consequence.

se-quent-tial (sē'kwēnt'shəl) *adj.* 1. Forming or marked by a sequence, as of notes or units. 2. Sequential. — *se-quen'ti-al-ly* *adv.* (-shē-āl'ē-ē-ē) *n.* — *se-quen'ti-al-ly* *adv.*

se-ques-ter (sē'kwēs'tər) *v., -tered, -ter-ing, -ters.* [ME *sequester* < LLat. *sequesterare*, to give up for safekeeping < Lat. *sequester*, depository.] — *vt.* 1. To set apart or remove: SEGREGATE. 2. Law. To take temporary possession of (property) as security against legal claims. 3. Law. To requisition and confiscate (enemy property). 4. To cause to seclude oneself. — *vi.* Chem. To undergo sequestration.

se-ques-tra (sē'kwēs'trə) *n., pl. of SEQUESTER.*

se-ques-trant (sē'kwēs'trənt) *n.* A chemical agent that promotes sequestration.

se-ques-trate (sē'kwē's-trāt', sēk'wē's-trāt') *vt. -trated, -trating, -trates.* [LLat. *sequesterare*, *sequestrat*, to give up for safekeeping < Lat. *sequester*, depository.] 1. Law. To take possession of: CONFISCATE. 2. Archaic. To sequester.

se-ques-tra-tion (sē'kwē's-trā'shən, sēk'wē's-trā'shən) *n.* [ME *sequestraciōn*, excommunication < LLat. *sequestratio*, separation < *sequester*, to give up for safekeeping < Lat. *sequester*, depository.] 1. The act of sequestering or the state of being sequestered. 2. Law. a. Seizure of property. b. A writ authorizing seizure of property. 3. Chem. The inhibition or stoppage of normal ion behavior by combination with added materials, esp. the prevention of metallic ion precipitation from solution by formation of a coordination complex with a phosphate.

se-ques-trum (sē'kwēs'trəm) *n., pl. -tra* (-trə) [NLat. < Lat. *depos* < *sequester*, depository.] A dead bone fragment that is separated from healthy bone.

se-quin (sē'kwīn) *n.* [Fr. < Ital. *zecchino*, a coin < *zecca*, the mint < Ar. *sikkah*, coin die.] 1. A small shiny ornamental disk sewn on fabric: SPANGLE. 2. A gold coin of the Venetian Republic.

se-quoi-a (sē'kwōi'ə) *n.* [NLat. *Sequoia*, genus name, after Sequoyia (George Guess), d.1843.] An extremely large evergreen tree of the genus *Sequoia*, which includes the redwood and the giant sequoia.

se-ra (sē'rə) *n., var. pl. of SERUM.*

se-rac (sə-rāk', sē-rā) *n.* [Fr. < Med. Lat. *seracium*, whey < Lat. *serum*.] A large mass of glacier ice remaining behind in a crevasse after glacial movement or melting.

se-ra-glio (sə-rāl'yō, rāl'yō) *n., pl. -glios.* [Ital. *serraglio*, prob. partly < VLat. **serraculum*, enclosure (< Lat. *serare*, to lock up < *sera*, lock), and partly < Turk. *serai*, palace.] 1. A harem. 2. A sultan's palace.

se-ra-pe also **sa-ra-pe** (sə-rā'pē, rāp'ē) *n.* [Mex. Sp. *sarape*.] A Latin-American cloak or poncho made of wool.

ser-aph (sēr'af) *n., pl. -a-phim* (-ə-fīm) or **-aphs.** [Back-formation < *seraphim* (pl.) < ME *seraphin* < OE < LLat. < Heb. *šērāphīm*, pl. of

seraph (sēr'af) *n.* 1. An angel with three pairs of fiery wings, seated on the throne of God. 2. An angel of the highest rank in the nine orders of angels. — *se-raph'ic* (sə-rāf'ik), *se-raph'i-cal* *adj.* — *se-raph'i-cal-ly* *adv.*

Se-ra-pis (sə-rā'pīs) *n.* Myth. An Egyptian god of the underworld.

Serb (sərb) *n.* [Serbian *Srb*.] A member of a southern Slavic people that is the principal ethnic group of Serbia.

Ser-bi-an (sēr'bē-ən) *n.* 1. A Serb. 2. A Serbo-Croatian. 3. Serbo-Croatian as spoken in Serbia. — *adj.* Of or pertaining to Serbia or the Serbs.

Ser-bo-Cro-a-tian (sēr'bō-kro-ā'shən) *n.* 1. The Slavic language of the Serbs and the Croats. 2. A native speaker of Serbo-Croatian. — *adj.* Of or relating to Serbo-Croatian or those who speak it.

ser-e (sēr) *adj.* [ME < OE *sear*.] Withered: dry.

ser-e (sēr) *n.* [SERIES.] A sequence of ecological communities successively occupying an area.

ser-e-nade (sēr'ə-nād', sēr'ə-nād') *n.* [Fr. *sérénade* < Ital. *serenata* < *sereno*, serene < Lat. *serenus*.] 1. A musical performance that honors or expresses love for someone. 2. An instrumental composition for a small ensemble, having characteristics of the suite and the sonata. — *v.* -naded, -nading, -nades. — *vt.* To perform a serenade for. — *vi.* To perform a serenade. — *ser'e-nad'er* *n.*

ser-en-dip-i-ty (sēr'ən-dip'ē-tē) *n.* [From its possession by the characters in the Persian fairy tale *The Three Princes of Serendip*.] The faculty of making providential discoveries by accident. — *ser'en-dip'i-tous* *adj.*

se-re-ne (sə-rēn') *adj.* [Lat. *serenus*, serene, clear.] 1. Peaceful: tranquil. 2. Unclouded: clear. 3. Often *Serene*. August: exalted. — *Used as part of a title for certain royal personages.* — *se-re-nely* *adv.*

se-re-ne-ness, **se-ren-i-ty** (rēn'ē-tē) *n.*

serf (sərf) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *servus*, slave.] 1. A slave, esp. a member of the lowest feudal class in medieval Europe, owned by a lord and bound to the land. 2. One in servitude. — *serf-dom* *n.*

serge (sərg) *n.* [ME *sarge* < OFr. < VLat. **sarica* < Lat. *serica*, silk < *sericus*, silken < *Seres*, a people of Eastern Asia.] A twilled cloth of worsted or a blend of worsted and wool.

ser-geant (sər'jənt) *n.* [ME *sergeante*, a common soldier < OFr. *sergent* < Lat. *serviens*, p.p. of *servire*, to serve < *servus*, slave.] a. Any of several ranks of noncommissioned officers in the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps. b. One holding any of these ranks. 2. The rank of police officer next below a captain, lieutenant, or inspector. b. A police officer holding this rank. 3. A sergeant at arms.

ser-geant-at-arms (sər'jənt-ə-tərmz) *n.* An officer appointed to keep order at the meetings of a legislative, judicial, or social body.

sergeant first class (sər'jənt fīrst klās) *n.* A noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army ranking above staff sergeant and below master sergeant or first sergeant.

sergeant fish (sər'jənt fīsh) *n.* The cobia.

sergeant major (sər'jənt mājər) *n.* 1. A noncommissioned officer serving as chief administrative assistant of a headquarters unit of the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps. 2. Chiefly Brit. A noncommissioned officer of the highest rank. 3. A tropical Atlantic fish, *Abudefduf saxatilis*, with a flattened body and dark vertical stripes.

se-ri-al (sē'rē-əl) *adj.* 1. Of, forming, consisting of, or arranged in a series. 2. a. Published or produced in installments at regular intervals as a novel or television drama. b. Of or relating to such publication or production. 3. Mus. Relating to or based on a 12-tone row. — *n.* A literary or dramatic work published or produced in installments. — *se-ri-al-ly* *adv.*

se-ri-al-ism (sē'rē-əl-iz'm) *n.* 1. Serial music. 2. The composition or theory of serial music. — *se-ri-al-ist* *n.*

se-ri-al-ize (sē'rē-əl-iz') *vt. -ized, -iz-ing, -iz-es.* To produce or publish in serial form. — *se-ri-al-iz-a-tion* *n.*

se-ri-al-killer (sē'rē-əl-kī-lər) *n.* A person who slays more than three victims in separate incidents within a relatively short period of time. — *se-ri-al killing* *n.*

se-ri-al-number (sē'rē-əl-nūm-bər) *n.* A number, one of a series, used for identification as of a machine.

se-ri-ate (sē'rē-āt') *adj.* Occurring or organized in a series or in rows. — *se-ri-ate-ly* *adv.*

se-ri-a-tim (sē'rē-āt'im, -āt'im) *adv.* [Med. Lat. < Lat. *series*, series.] In a series.

se-ri-ceous (sē-rīsh'əs) *adj.* [LLat. *sericeus*, silken < Lat. *sericus*.] — *see* SERGE. 1. Silky. 2. Bot. Covered with fine, soft, silky hairs.

ser-i-cin (sēr'ē-sīn) *n.* [Lat. *sericus*, silken.] A gelatinous protein forming on the surface of raw silk fibers.

ser-i-cul-ture (sēr'ē-kul'chər) *n.* [Lat. *sericum*, silk (< *Seres*, a people of Eastern Asia) < CULTURE.] The raising of silkworms for the production of raw silk. — *ser'i-cul-tur-al* *adj.* — *ser'i-cul-tur-ist* *n.*

ser-i-e-ma (sēr'ē-ē-mə) *n.* [Tupi, crested.] A crane-like South American bird, *Cariama cristata* or *Chunga burmeisteri*, with a tufted crest behind the bill.

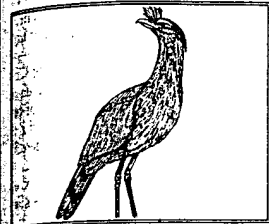
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seriema
36 inches long

series (sēr'ēz) *n., pl. series.* [Lat. *series* < *serere*, to join.] 1. A number of things or events of the same kind occurring in a following one after the other in succession < a series of phonetic series of mishaps > 2. A group of objects related by a line of morphological or configurational characteristic < the par-

3. Math. The indicated sum of a finite or of a sequence of terms. 4. A sequence of coordinate elements. 5. A sequence of use, continuously numbered. 6. A television or radio program broadcast at regular intervals. 7. A number of games played one after the other by the same opposing teams. B. Baseball. The World Series. — *in* in arrangement forming a series.

series circuit (sēr'ēz-sēr'vīs) *n.* An electric circuit connected so that current flows through each circuit element in turn without branching.

series wound (sēr'ēz-wūnd) *adj.* Of or relating to a motor or dynamo in which the armature circuit and the field circuit are connected in series with the external circuit.

scribble (skrīb'l) *n.* [Perh. < Du. *schreef*, line < MDu. *scrēve* < *white* < Lat. *scribere*.] A fine line in printing finishing off the ends of a letter.

serigraph (sēr'ē-grāf) *n.* [Lat. *sericum*, silk (< *Seres*, a people of Eastern Asia) < GRAPH.] A silk-screened print. — *se-ri-graph-er* *n.* — *se-ri-graph-ry* *n.*

Serinus (sēr'in) *n.* [Fr.] An Old World finch of the genus *Serinus* with yellow or yellowish-green plumage.

serine (sēr'en) *n.* [SER(ICIN) + -INE.] An amino acid, C₃H₇NO₂, common component of many proteins.

serio-comic (sēr'ē-kōm'ik) *adj.* [SERIO(US) + COMIC.] Ironic and partially comic. — *se-ri-o-com'i-cal-ly* *adv.*

serious (sēr'ē-as) *adj.* [ME *serious* < OFr. *serieux* < LLat. < Lat. *serius*.] 1. Grave in quality, character or manner: SOBER. 2. Earnestly: SINCERE. 3. Involving important rather than trivial matters: WEIGHTY. 4. Characterized by much effort or devoted worry. — *se-ri-ous-ly* *adv.* — *se-ri-ous-ness* *n.*

sermon (sər'mən) *n.* Chiefly Brit. var. of SERMON 2, 3.

sermon (sər'mən) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *sermo*, discourse.] 1. A discourse delivered during a church service. 2. An often long-winded speech of reproof or exhortation. — *ser-mon'ic* (sər'mən'ik) *adj.*

sermon-ize (sər'mə-nīz') *v. -ized, -iz-ing, -iz-es.* — *vt.* To deliver a sermon to. — *vi.* To speak as if giving a sermon. — *ser-mon-iz-er* *n.*

Sermon on the Mount (sər'mən ōn ðə maunt) *n.* A discourse of Jesus, delivered in the New Testament.

sero- (sērō) *pref.* [SERUM.] Serum < serotherapy >

sero-di-ag-no-sis (sēr'ō-dī-əg-nō'sis, sēr'ō-dī-əg-nō'sis) *n.* Diagnosis of blood serum reactions. — *se-ro-dī-əg-nōs'tic* (-nōs'tik) *adj.*

sero-gy (sērō'jē) *n.* The medical science dealing with serum. — *se-ro-log'ic* (sēr'ō-lōj'ik), *se-ro-log'i-cal* *adj.*

sero-log-ist (sērō-lōj'ist) *n.*

sero-pu-lent (sēr'ō-pyōōr'ə-lənt, -pyōōr'yə, sēr'ō-pyōōr'ə-lənt) *adj.* 1. Of serum and pus. 2. a. (sēr'ō-sə, -zə) *n., pl. -sas or -sae* (-sē) [NLat., ferruginous < Lat. *serum*, serum.] A serous membrane. — *se-ri-ous-ly* *adv.*

sero-ther-a-py (sēr'ō-thēr'ə-pē, sēr'ō-thēr'ə-pē) *n.* Treatment of a serum or antitoxin.

sero-tin (sēr'ō-tīn) *n.* Chiefly Brit. var. of SEROTIN 2, 3.

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